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Sen. Patterson exceeds goal in reaching out to students for Reading Month

LANSING – Sen. Bruce Patterson, R-Canton, expressed a feeling of satisfaction and gratitude for having surpassed his personal goal for Reading Month in March.

“I told my staff that I not only enjoyed reading to the youngsters, but that I felt it was an important component of my role-model responsibility,” Patterson said.

By the end of the month, Patterson had read to more than 2,000 elementary school students across his district. By doing so, he succeeded in his desire to underscore the importance of reading by addressing students in schools from Northville to Rockwood.

Starting on Monday, March , and continuing weekly thereafter throughout the entire month, Patterson made stops in Northville, Plymouth, Canton, Van Buren, Brownstown, Woodhaven, Flat Rock, Gibraltar and Rockwood.

Many of the students to whom he read have since written him touching, personal letters and notes.

“Dear Senator Patterson: Thank you for coming in and reading to us. It was very nice of you. I really liked the story you read to us. I hope you can come back next year,” said a student at Field Elementary in Canton.

Teachers and parents echoed the feelings expressed by the children.

“The classes were excited to have him there,” said Peggy Barnas, speaking on behalf of the PTO, staff, and students at Bates Elementary School in Woodhaven. “He had a great impact on the group. I haven’t seen fifth graders react in such a positive way.”

Following the completion of Patterson’s reading tour, Principal James Orwin of Hunter Elementary School in Brownstown Township, said: “Senator Patterson made a real impact on the students. He drove home the importance of reading to our students and we look forward to having him return.”

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Pictures of Sen. Patterson reading are available on Senate Majority Photowire at
<http://www.senate.state.mi.us/gop/photowire/Patterson/Patterson.htm>.